



Arapaho Fire

Fire Information Update

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Contact: Public Information Office 1-307-298-0566

Tuesday, July 3, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. MST Fire Status Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Arapaho	87,894*	10%	575

*Increase in acreage is due to fire growth in the Eagle Peak/Friend Park area and burnout operations

News & Events for the Arapaho Fire:

- Yesterday, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead visited the fire and received a briefing from fire officials and toured a portion of the fire
- Approximately 250 people attended the public meeting in Wheatland
- A public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. this evening at the Middle School Commons in Douglas
- A county assessor is making assessments to damaged property in the fire area
- For property assessment information for Platte, Albany and Converse Counties, call the hotline number at 307-322-6590 starting at 1:00 p.m. today

Arapaho Fire: During yesterday's day and evening shift, firefighters were successful in conducting burnout operations on the SE corner and NE (south of Harris Park) flank of the fire. Last night, fire crews worked on several flare-ups in the Harris Park area. Firefighters also provided initial attack for four new starts outside the fire area. Structure protection is in place for affected communities.

Another red flag day will challenge firefighters, particularly on the W flank of the fire, where there is potential for large fire growth. Firefighters will continue to burn out, hold and improve lines, and provide structure protection coordinating with county resources. Crews will also look for opportunities for burnout on the SW finger to stop fire spread and even out the line along the south flank of the fire. Three heavy helicopters will be supporting ground firefighters during today's shift.

Evacuations: The Sheriff's office has issued evacuations for Oregon Trail subdivision, Laramie Peak Ranch, Cottonwood Park, Friend Park, North Laramie Trailhead, Harris Park. **The community of Esterbrook is not included in the evacuations at this time.**

Closures: All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); Roaring Fork Trail (#623); and Laramie Peak Trailhead; recreation sites closed include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground.

FIRE FACTS:

Arapaho Fire: Started: June 27, 2012 **Cause:** Under investigation **Location:** 28 miles NW of Wheatland, WY.
Resources: A total of 575 personnel assigned to the fire, including 4 hotshot crews, 10 hand crews, 4 assigned helicopters, 40 engines, 6 dozers and 3 water tenders.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Heat exhaustion associated illness, smoke and poor visibility, narrow dirt roads and animals on the road.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Invasive species such as dalmation toadflax, cheatgrass and zebra mussel transported on equipment from other locations.

WEATHER: Today, partly cloudy by this afternoon with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures near 90 across the E flank and lower to mid-80s across the W flank. Winds SW 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 20 mph over the ridges. Tonight, partly cloudy with a slight chance of early evening showers and thunderstorms. Temps 60 to 65 with relative humidity 35 to 50%. Ridge top winds SW 10 to 15 mph shifting northwest by morning. Drainage winds after sunset 5 to 10 mph with NW wind 10 to 15 mph by sunrise. Outlook for Wednesday is partly cloudy afternoon with a slight chance of afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms.

TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR: Predominant fuels in the fire vary across the landscape, with ponderosa pine and lodgepole present in timbered areas. Fire has been moving readily in the crowns of both tree species. Fuels are much drier than normal and are very receptive to ignition. Due to the dry fuels, steep slopes and breezy conditions, the potential for large fire growth will continue to be very high. This will continue until significant rainfall increases fuel moisture. The relative humidity has had little effect on fire behavior due to strong winds over the last few days and associated drying. Expect burning conditions to moderate anywhere that showers occur.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Platte County, Albany County and Converse County; the Rawlins Field Office of the High Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management.

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